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TURNER, *Asymmetrical conditions met with in the faces of the insane; with some remarks on the dissolution of expression*, Journal of Mental Science, 1892, XXXVIII. 18.

This is a consideration of "certain asymmetrical appearances, chiefly noticed in the face, by which we can actually demonstrate the existence of paralysis in a large proportion of all cases of insanity." Bilaterally associated movements have been chosen for study, because they are, as a rule, of equal strength on each side. Asymmetry of expression is not, of course, confined to the insane, but is to be found among nervous, excitable people, religious enthusiasts, and, though rarely, in normal individuals. It is possible for some people to "voluntarily produce a most marked asymmetrical condition in the contraction of the muscles of expression." In a case noted by Dr. Turner, there was "a strong tendency for the asymmetrical condition to become symmetrical," the subject needing to fix his attention entirely upon what he was doing in order to prevent the contraction becoming equally marked on both sides. "Inequality of the pupils is present in one-fourth of the cases of insanity on admission, and in chronic cases it becomes more common, and it is most common in general paralysis." It would appear also that "the right pupil is more frequently the larger, the difference being very slight in the recent cases, more marked in the chronic." From present evidence it is not possible to state definitely the precise locality in each hemisphere the paralysis of which has led to the asymmetry. "In 306 female cases, recent admissions, the tongue, when protruded, was deflected from the middle line in 80 instances, or 24 per cent." It would seem then that paralysis in the muscles that protrude the tongue prevails to about the same extent as it does in the muscles controlling the size of the pupils. The muscles of expression here considered are, in the upper zone of the face, the *occipito-frontalis* and *corrugator supercilii*, and in the lower, the *levator labii superioris* and the *zygomatics*. In the cases of fresh admissions asymmetrical action in the upper zone of the face bears to asymmetrical action in the lower zone, the proportion 3.7 to 1. Among idiots, and in all congenital cases of weak-mindedness, the lower zone is most frequently affected. In the cases of insane females the "frequency with which the muscles of expression of the lower parts of the face are called into play under emotional states, which would in the sane result in expression more confined to the muscles of the upper part," is noticeable. In other words, "their expressions are more animal-like, less mental." The paper is accompanied by a plate containing gravures of faces of melancholic and insane women, showing asymmetry of various regions of the face, and an explanatory chart.

A. F. CHAMBERLAIN.

KIERNAN, *Is genius a neurosis?* Alienist and Neurologist, 1892, XIII. (1) 118.

This is a review from the time of Aristotle to that of Lombroso, of the doctrine put forward by the Greek philosopher in these terms, "No excellent soul is exempt from a mixture of madness." The usual examples, chiefly from Lombroso, of the peculiarities and idiosyncrasies of genius are given. Shortness of stature, rachitis, excessive pallor, infirmities of the body, cerebral and cranial lesions, asymmetries, and abnormalities of the skull, stammering, left-handedness, celibacy, precocity, misanthropy, erratic habits, etc. Dr. Kiernan concludes, "The alleged intellectual association of insanity and genius would seem, therefore, to be justified," but he is far from identifying the two. "Genius is not a product of morbid mind. In the exceptional instances where the two co-exist, the genius is evidence of a healthy, conservative